

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/590,922

Examiner

Phung T. Nguyen

Applicant(s)

SHAFIYAN-RAD ET AL.

Art Unit

2632

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Examiner's amendment on 08/23/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,4-6,8-11,13-21,and 23-25 (renumbered as 1-20).
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 09 June 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Patrica S. Murphy on 08/23/05.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An indicator apparatus, comprising:
a housing having a first side extending generally between second and third sides, the housing containing circuitry for performing a proximity sensing function; [and]
at least [one] two elongated strips of substantially translucent material extending through the first side and at least one of the second and third sides so that part of [the] each strip is visible at the first side and the at least one of the second and third sides; and
a light source respectively associated with each of the at least two elongated strips so that light from each light source illuminates a corresponding one of the at least two elongated strips.

4. (Currently Amended) The indicator apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least [one] two elongated strips extends completely through the housing from the second side through to the third side and [is] are exposed at the first side, whereby the at least [one] two elongate strips [is] are visible along the first side, the second side, and the third side.

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6. (Currently Amended) The indicator apparatus of claim 1, further comprising [wherein the at least one elongated strips further includes at least two elongate strips of the substantially translucent material, each of the at least two elongated strips extending through the first side and at least one of the second and third sides so that part of each of elongated strips is visible at the first side and at least one of the second and third sides,] a partition of a substantially opaque material separating the at least two elongated strips.

7. cancelled.

8. claim 8, line 1, change "claim 7" to --claim 1--.

10. claim 10, line 1, change "one elongated strip has" to --two elongated strips have--.

11. (Currently Amended) An indicator system, comprising:

a housing having a first side extending between second and third sides, at least [one] two elongated slots formed in the housing extending through the first side and at least one of the second and third sides, the housing containing an object detection circuit; and

a substantially translucent material being disposed in the slot adjacent a light source, repectively associated with each of the at least two elongated slots, that [is] are operative to, when activated, illuminate the translucent material, the translucent material being visible at the first side and the at least one of the second and third sides.

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13. claim 13, line 1, change "one elongated slot" to --two elongated slots--.

15. (Currently Amended) The indicator system of claim 11, further comprising: [wherein the at least one elongate slots further comprises at least two elongated slots extending through the first side and at least one of the second and third sides, a partition of a substantially opaque separating the at least two elongate slots,] translucent material being disposed in each of the at least two elongated slots so that the translucent material is visible at the first side and the at least one of the second and third sides.

16. (Currently Amended) The indicator system of claim 15, [further including a different light source operatively associated with each of the at least two elongated strips so that] light from each light source illuminates the translucent material in a corresponding one of the at least two elongated slots.

19. (Currently Amended) The indicator apparatus of claim 11, wherein the at least [one] two elongated [strip has] slots have an outer extent that substantially conforms to the contour of an adjacent outer sidewall portion of the housing.

21. (Currently Amended) A proximity sensor system, comprising:

a proximity sensor for sensing the proximity of an object;

an indicator housing having an outer sidewall portion with a plurality of sides;

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at least [one] two elongated strips of substantially translucent material extending through at least one side of the sidewall portion through to another side of the sidewall portion so that part of [the] each strip is visible at the at least one side and the another side of the sidewall portion; and

a light source operatively associated with each of the at least [one] two elongated strips, [the] each light source being operative to, when activated, illuminate a corresponding one of the at least two elongated strips, the light sources being activated based on an operating condition of the proximity sensor system.

22. cancelled.

23. claim 23, line 1, change "the at least one" to --each--.

24. claim 24, line 1, change "the light source" to --each light source--

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

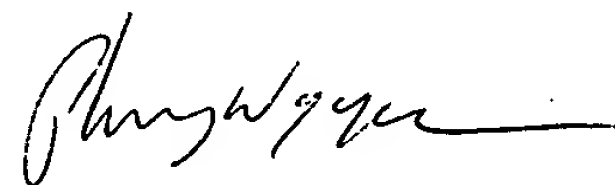
Conclusion.

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4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phung Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-2968. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:00am to 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel J. Wu, can be reached on 571-272-2964. The fax phone number for this Group is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2600.



PHUNG T. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Date: August 23, 2005